

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02
/159 W

-----022347 241940Z /43

P 241722Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6425
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USMTN

STR FOR ACTION

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, TH, ID, MY, RP, SN

SUBJECT: MTN: CONSULTATION WITH ASEAN GROUP US OFFERS AND
- FUTURE WORK PROGRAMS

1. SUMMARY: MTN DEL MET WITH ASEAN GENEVA GROUP TO DIS-
CUSS US JANUARY 23 OFFER. THE SESSION WAS PRIMARILY TO
RESPOND TO ASEAN QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE OFFER AND
TO SEEK ASEAN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF BI-
LATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL ASEAN STATES.

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SEVERAL ASEAN DELEGATES INDICATED PROBLEMS WITH MEETING
THE MARCH 1ST TARGET DATE FOR THEIR REQUESTS. AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED TO PURSUE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AT THE
PREFERRED PACE OF EACH MEMBER COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. MTN DEL (GRAEF, SWAIN, MIMS, & WALLAR) MET WITH THE
ASEAN/GENEVA COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF

AMBASSADOR KAHONA OF INDONESIA. DRAWING FROM A SURVEY OF US 1976 IMPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEIR SHARE WAS 5 PER CENT OR MORE OF US IMPORTS AND OVER \$100,000 WE NOTED THAT ASEAN AS A GROUP WAS FIRST SUPPLIER ON 62 PRODUCTS TOTALLING 706 MILLION DOLLARS ON WHICH FULL US AUTHORITY OR FORMULA CUTS HAD BEEN OFFERED. INDIVIDUAL ASEANS OR ASEANS AS A GROUP WERE SIMILARLY SECOND SUPPLIERS ON 30 PRODUCTS COVERING 142 MILLION DOLLARS.

3. FYI INFO POSTS: FIGURES CITED ABOVE ARE BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL OFFER WHICH IS CLASSIFIED GATT SECRET AND, DUE TO SENSITIVITY, SHOULD NOT BE CITED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS. END FYI.

4. WE OUTLINED THE TIMETABLE WE BELIEVE NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS BY MID SUMMER OF THIS YEAR STRESSING THE NEED FOR RECEIVING REQUEST AND OFFERS AS NEAR MARCH 1 AS POSSIBLE. WE NOTED THAT FOR THE US OFFER TO BE MAINTAINED, CONTRIBUTIONS BY BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES WERE NECESSARY AND THAT IMPROVEMENT WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE DIFFICULT CONSIDERING MAXIMALIST NATURE OF OUR OFFER WAS NOT POSSIBLE UNLESS NEGOTIATIONS WERE JOINED.

5. SEVERAL ASEANS INCLUDING INDONESIA, THAILAND AND THE PHILLIPINES STATED THAT THEY COULD NOT MEET THE MARCH 1 TARGET DATE SINCE THE US OFFER HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WAS UNDER ANALYSIS. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER RULE THE US APPLIED IN ITS AGRICULTURE OFFER (IE - NO REQUEST BY PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER, NO OFFER). OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNED THE LINKAGE OF TARIFF IMPLEMENTATION TO PROGRESS ON NON-TARIFF MEASURE CODES.

6. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN THE WEEK OF MARCH 6 TO INFORMALLY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON NON-TARIFF MEASURE QUESTIONS AND TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF A JOINT ASEAN/US JOINT WORK PROGRAM TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS BY MID SUMMER. IT WAS AGREED DESPITE URGING OF THE CHAIR TO THE CONTRARY THAT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES PROCEED AT THE PREFERRED PACE OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: SURPRISINGLY THE ASEANS DID NOT BRING UP A POSITION THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD THAT ASEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MTN COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ASEAN DID NOT HOWEVER INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD TABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE TIME FRAME THE US SEEKING. IT IS CLEAR THAT ASEAN IS REEXAMINING ITS POSITION ON THIS QUESTION AND ARE PLANNING TO HOLD A MEETING OF SR.

TRADE OFFICIALS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ASSESS THEIR
POSITION IN THE MTN (SEE SEPTTEL REPORTING MEETING WITH
MALAYSIAN DEL). MTN DEL INTENDS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL
DELS FULL INFORMATION ON US OFFER AND REQUESTS IN NEXT
WEEK OR TWO TO ASSIST ASEAN PREPARATIONS FOR THIS MEETING
END COMMENT.

8. DRAFTED BY GRAEF. CULBERT

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